DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
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BRIGG URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1972

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman - Miss D. M. Selby

Vice-Chairman - Dr. R. E. Holmes

Councillors:	F. G. Atton	Councillors:	E. Parker
	E. Gillard		E. W. Robinson
	G. L. Hewson		I. P. Strudwick
	T. Morgan		

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. S. Robertson, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., D.I.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A. V. Sheard, M.B., Ch.B., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Office: Public Health Department, The Cedars, Bigby Road, Brigg.
Tel: Brigg 3604/5

Clerks: Mrs. M. H. Akester, Mrs. N. A. Titman, Mrs. M. E. Jackson.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

J. B. Cowdell, M.A.P.H.I.

D. J. Hartley (Appointed 1st April, 1972)

Office: Civic Centre, Cary Lane, Brigg.
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October, 1973.

Chairman and Gentlemen,

The appointment of Mr. Hartley as your assistant Public Health Inspector in April permitted a resumption of essential work which had been neglected for several years. In view of the back log of work he had to concentrate initially on those aspects which seemed most urgent. It is a pleasant relief to see that 133 visits of inspection to various classes of food premises were made in 1972 compared with none in the previous year. In the absence of regular supervision laxity in observance of the food hygiene regulations tends to develop over a period of time. We have been fortunate that this has not led to outbreaks of food born infection. In general the health of the district was satisfactory in 1972. Our vital statistics show a pleasing drop in the death rate, and a slight fall in the birth rate. The latter remains above the national rate and above the desirable "replacement" rate at which births and deaths are equal and the population stable. There were no infant deaths during the year but as two babies were stillborn our stillbirth and perinatal mortality rates exceeded those for the nation.

As you know, over-population is now the greatest danger facing mankind. The quality of life for our children and grand-children will depend upon whether or not man can limit his numbers to a level which the planet's resources can sustain. Brigg's birth rate is still too high despite the well attended Family Planning Clinic and the availability of advice through general practitioners. A disappointing feature of our statistics is the doubling of the illegitimacy rate from 6 per cent of births in 1971 to 14 per cent in 1972.

A proportion of these births are children born to couples who although not legally married are in stable cohabitation. These will suffer no significant disadvantages compared with other children. Some however are the result of promiscuous sexual activity, leaving a girl who may be young and

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A proportion of these births are children born to couples who although not legally married are in stable cohabitation. These will suffer no significant disadvantages compared with other children. Some however are the result of promiscuous sexual activity, leaving a girl who may be young and

emotionally immature to face a variety of extremely difficult problems.

If her parents are tolerant of the situation and prepared to look after their daughter's child as their own she is fortunate. Even in these circumstances emotional tensions tend to develop in the family. Where the parental home is small and overcrowded these are often acute. Many girls in this situation find their position intolerable and leave home taking their babies to live wherever they can find accommodation. They find great difficulty in obtaining suitable homes and when they succeed their problems are only just beginning.

Because of their babies they are unable to seek employment, and have to live at subsistance level on social security money or on money from the baby's father which is often erratically paid through the courts. They are lonely, and have nobody with whom to discuss their problems and share responsibility for decision making. They are deprived of opportunity for recreation or social contact by the need to stay in and "mind" the child. They have nobody to baby-sit while they slip out to shop or post office. They are often driven by their loneliness to seek companionship unwisely, and often end up in undesirable company. Because they become depressed and preoccupied with their own problems the quality of the care they give to their babies suffers, and this tends to impair the childs mental and emotional development. Children raised by lone parents have been shown to fare less well at school and in subsequent occupation, than children of ordinary two parent families. Even with the economic and moral support and the companionship of a reliable husband many women find the rearing of children a most demanding task. It is hardly surprising that so many of those who tackle it without these advantages find themselves unable to maintain reasonable standards of child care, get into financial difficulties, and become depressed and miserable. Some fathers of illegitimate babies against whom maintenance orders are made find these an intolerable burden and seek work elsewhere under assumed names in order to evade payment. The amount of stress and unhappiness which such an unplanned pregnancy can cause is immense. It is possible that among the causes for rising illegitimacy rates are the more permissive social attitudes of today. Tolerance is usually a desirable attribute, but tolerance of irresponsible sexual activity without the use of contraceptives is not. Social attitudes

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which tend to encourage such behaviour constitute a cruel trap for the young, whose prospects for happy fulfilling lives may be permanently shattered. Parents, teachers, doctors, social workers and others who wish to prevent such tragedies are faced by a dilemma. We do not wish to say or do anything which might induce a young person who would otherwise not have done so to have promiscuous premarital intercourse. If we are too keen to tell adolescents all about contraception there is a risk that they may take this as encouragement to sexual activity. If we do not inform them about contraception and they are sexually active we are to blame for their ignorance and its consequences. Clearly a way out of this dilemma must be found. Adolescence is a time of rebellion against parental control and a period of turbulent emotion, in which extremes of joy and misery are common. Adults and advice they give are treated with suspicion. Young people today are tending to evolve a distinct culture of their own. Unless means can be found to influence this culture so that irresponsible sexual intercourse without contraception becomes taboo, much social damage will result. Whether such a change in attitude can be effected by education in school, by special propaganda in the mass media, or by talks from parents at a time when less wholesome attitudes are implicit in much of their"literature" and the films which they see is debatable. It is a pity that current heroes of fiction are promiscuous and irresponsible in this matter.

The condition and performance of the town's grossly overloaded sewage treatment works remained unsatisfactory. The work of designing extensions to the plant proceeded and attempts to secure agreement over trade effluents and the charges to be levied for their treatment continued during the year. The extension of the sewage works to cope with the greatly increased load to which effluent from the canning factory contributes so substantially is a matter of some urgency.

Pressure on housing remains high. Although no new council houses were completed in the year, work was started on the old people's dwellings in Ancholme Gardens, which when completed will ease the position.

Despite the impetus to home improvement resulting from the temporary availability of 75 per cent discretionary grants the rate of improvement in

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Brigg remained low in comparison with other areas, and there are still too many substandard properties lacking in modern amenities in the town. No progress was made with slum clearance, but there are still a number of unfit properties in use.

The town's water supply remains satisfactory. Although the nitrate concentration marginally exceeded the W.H.O. recommended level on many occasions it never approached the limit of acceptability, and there were no reports of unexplained cyanosis in babies during the year.

Noxious smells from the settling lagoons of the British Sugar Corporation gave rise to fewer complaints within the town than in some previous years. The most impressive environmental nuisances in Brigg remained those of noise, exhaust fumes, and the risk of physical injury from the increasingly heavy traffic on the A18. Only when the by-pass is completed can we hope for restoration of civilised conditions in Wrawby Street and Bigby Street, and we must hope that work on this scheme will not be further delayed.

I commend to your notice the tabulated data in the latter pages of this report and am indebted to Mr. Cowdell for details of his work and that of Mr. Hartley. We must hope that next year, when we should have a complete year with full staff the figures for public health surveillance and control will be even better.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. S. Robertson
Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

	1970	1971	1972
Mid-year population	5,080	4,860	4,890
Live Births	63	82	74
Stillbirths	-	1	2
Infant deaths under 4 weeks of age	-	2	-
Total deaths	86	79	70

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			TOTAL
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Live Births	28	36	64	4	6	10	74
Stillbirths	-	2	2	-	-	-	2
Infant deaths under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infant deaths under 4 wks.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infant deaths under 1 week	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	1971	1972	England & Wales 1972
Crude Birth Rate	16.9	15.1	14.8
Corrected Birth Rate *	17.9	17.7	(14.8)
Stillbirth Rate	12.0	26.0	12.0
Infant Mortality Rate	24.0	--	17.0
Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate	26.0	--	17.0
Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate	--	--	21.0
Neonatal Mortality Rate	24.0	--	12.0
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate	24.0	--	10.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate	36.0	26.0	22.0
Illegitimacy Rate	6.0	14.0	9.0
Crude Death Rate	16.3	14.3	12.1
Corrected Death Rate *	12.6	9.7	(12.1)

* These corrections take account of the different proportions of old and young people in the area, and make the resulting rate comparable with that for England and Wales. Thus, a resort to which old people retire would have a high crude rate, but low comparability factor would correct the false impression that this was an unhealthy area. The comparability factor for births in this district is 1.17 and .68 for deaths.

Causes of Death in the District during the year 1972

(Registrar General's Figures)

Causes of Death	0-	1-	15-	25-	45-	65+	Total M	Total F
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	4
Other Malignant Neoplasms	-	-	-	-	1	3	4	-
Other Diseases of Nervous System	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Ischaemic Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	3	5	4	4
Other Forms of Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	-	9	5	4
Cerebrovascular Disease	-	-	-	-	-	12	6	6
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	2	7	6	3
Bronchitis and Emphysema	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	4
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
TOTAL:	-	1	1	-	16	52	38	32

CAUSES OF DEATH AT VARIOUS PERIODS OF LIFE

(Locally compiled statistics)

Causes of Death	Age in years				Total
	0-1	1-14	15-49	50+	
Infectious Diseases					
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-
The Cancers					
Stomach	-	-	-	1	1
Lung and Bronchus	-	-	1	4	5
Breast	-	-	3	1	4
Uterus	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	1	6	7
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-
Cardiovascular Diseases					
Vascular lesions of the C.N.S.	-	-	-	12	12
Coronary disease, Angina	-	-	1	11	12
Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-	-	-
Other heart disease	-	-	-	8	8
Other circulatory disease	-	-	-	3	3
Respiratory Disease					
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	6	6
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis. Enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-	2	2
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformation	-	-	-	-	-
Other diseases	-	1	-	4	5
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	1	-	1
All other accidents	-	-	-	-	-
Suicide	-	-	-	-	-
Homicide	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	-	1	7	60	63

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES BY AGE GROUPS

DISEASES	0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	25+	A.U.	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
TOTAL:	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied to the town by the North Lindsey Water Board. The water comes from deep bores in the chalk at Barrow-on-Humber.

The following table gives details of Bacteriological examination of water samples taken during the year.

Presumptive Coli Count	"Raw Water"	Chlorinated Water
Less than 1 per 100 ml.	64	95
1 to 2 per 100 ml.	6	1
3 to 10 per 100 ml.	1	0
More than 10 per 100 ml. or E. Coli type 1 present	7	0
Total:	78	96

Chemical Analyses

Barrow-on-Humber Bore	Raw Water	Treated Water
Appearance	clear	clear
Colour	colourless	colourless
Taste	none	normal
Smell	none	none

General Chemical Examination	Parts per Million	
Reaction, pH Value	7.2	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide as CO_2	31.0	16.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen as N	0.048	0.032
Albuminoid Nitrogen as N	0.088	0.048
Nitrous Nitrogen	faint trace	faint trace
Nitric Nitrogen as N	9.59	9.23
Poisonous Metals (Lead etc.)	less than 0.04	
Hardness (calculated from Mineral Analysis as $CaCO_3$)	339.0	211.0
Temporary	205.0	211.0
Permanent	134.0	Nil
Permanganate Value (4 hours at 80°F)as O	0.45	0.18
Alkalinity as $CaCO_3$	205.0	211.0

Mineral Analysis		
Silica	3.50	3.00
Iron Oxide	0.21	0.19
Aluminium Oxide	0.04	none
Calcium as Ca	126.68	74.46
Magnesium as Mg	5.42	6.03
Sodium as Na	14.12	79.94
Carbonates as CO_3	123.00	132.00
Chlorides as Cl	35.50	37.00
Nitrates as NO_3	42.45	40.86
Sulphates as SO_4	76.70	76.16
Manganese as Mn	none	none

Probable composition of Mineral constituents		
Silica	3.50	3.00
Aluminium Oxide	0.04	none
Iron Oxide	0.21	0.19
Calcium Carbonate	205.14	185.96
Calcium Sulphate	108.69	Nil
Calcium Chloride	34.76	Nil
Magnesium Carbonate	Nil	20.91
Magnesium Chloride	17.85	Nil
Magnesium Nitrate	5.25	Nil
Sodium Carbonate	none	9,93
Sodium Sulphate	none	112.63
Sodium Chloride	none	61.00
Sodium Nitrate	52.18	56.02
	427.62	449.64

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

HOUSING

Total number of dwelling-houses and flats in the district	1,854
Total number of new houses erected during the year	
By the local authority	Nil
By other local authorities	Nil
By other bodies or persons	28
Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year	
Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	15
Number of inspections made for the purpose	15
Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority	1
Action under statutory powers during the year	
(1) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts	
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Proceedings under the Housing Acts	
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(3) Slum Clearance - proceedings under the Housing Acts	
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
Number of dwelling-houses or parts, subject to Closing Orders	Nil
Number of dwelling-houses, or parts, rendered fit by undertakings	Nil
Number of dwelling-houses included in confirmed Clearance Orders	Nil

Number of dwelling-houses on which Demolition Orders are operative and to which are still occupied except under the provisions of Sections 34, 35 & 46 of the Housing Act, 1957	Nil
Number of dwelling-houses occupied under Section 34, 35, & 46 of the Housing Act, 1957	Nil
Houses demolished or closed voluntarily by owners which would otherwise have been the subject of statutory action to secure demolition or closure	Nil
(4) Nissen Huts or similat Hutments	
Number still occupied	Nil
(5) Estimated number of dwellings, excluding those under paragraph 4 above, remaining to be dealt with under:-	
(a) The Housing Act, 1957, Sections 16 & 18	Nil
(b) The Housing Act, 1957, Section 42	Nil

Housing Acts - Overcrowding

Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil
Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	Nil

Housing Act, 1969

Number of dwellings for which applications for grants have been made:-	
(a) Standard Grant (Section 8)	3
(b) Improvement Grant (Section 2)	20
(c) Special Grants (Section 13)	Nil
Number of dwellings subject to grant:-	
(a) Standard Grant	3
(b) Improvement Grant	20
(c) Special Grant (including dwellings in improvement areas)	Nil

Moveable Dwellings, Tents, Vans etc.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960:	
Number of site licences	1
Total number of caravans permitted under such licences	60
Number of inspections made during the year:-	
(a) Sites	3
(b) Caravans	Nil
Number of contraventions remedied	Nil
Number of sites exempt from licence	Nil

FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses:-

Number in the district	3
Number of inspections made	24
Number of contraventions found	2
Number of defects remedied	Nil

Ice Cream:-

Number of manufacturers on register	Nil
Number of premises licensed for the sale of ice cream	10
Number of inspections made	24
Number of contraventions found	Nil

Meat Products:-

Number of premises registered for manufacture of meat products	Nil

Other Food Premises:-

Number of other food premises	40
Number of inspections made	85
Number of contraventions found	Nil

Slaughterhouses:-

Number licensed:-

(a) Abattoir Type	Nil
(b) Private	1

UNSOUND FOOD:

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	Not known	-	-	-	-
Number inspected	100%	-	-	-	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticerosis:					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Other Foods Condemned:- 4 tons of Haricot Beans
137 lbs. of Mixed Frozen Foods
62 lbs. of Mixed Tinned Foods

Method of disposal of condemned food: Meat - Animal By-products firm
Other Foods - Tipping under supervision

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Closets:

Number of houses with pail closets	Nil
Number of houses with water-closets	1,854
Number of water-closets substituted for pail closets	Nil

Cesspools and Septic Tanks:

Number of cesspools and septic tanks emptied etc.	1
Number of cesspools and septic tanks abolished	Nil

WATER SUPPLIES (Domestic)

Number of houses supplied from public mains:-	
in the house	1,854
from an outside tap	Nil
Number of houses supplied from private sources	Nil
Number of houses with unsatisfactory supplies	Nil

SWIMMING POOLS

Number in operation	3
Number fitted with continuous mechanical filtration and chlorination	3

GENERAL

Offensive Trades.

Number of premises in the district	Nil

Knackers Yard.

Number licensed	Nil

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Number of premises licensed	110
Number of inspections made	52
Number of defects found	Nil

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Number of premises from which refuse is collected	1,854
Frequency of collection	Weekly
Type of receptacle used	Bin

Disposal is by controlled tipping by arrangement with Glanford Brigg R.D.C.

Number of vehicles used	1

Estimated amount of refuse disposed of during the year:-

Domestic (approx.)	4,680 tons
Trade (approx.)	250 tons

The Council makes a special free collection of bulky household refuse which is too large for normal collection. A charge is made for the collection of garden refuse.

Details of Nuisances Abated

Nuisance	After informal intimation	After statutory notice
Refuse	-	-
Foul ditches & stagnant water	-	-
Drainage	-	-
Poultry & Animals	-	-
Dangerous Premises	-	-
Miscellaneous Nuisances	-	-
Total:	-	-

Disinfection and Disinfestation

Rooms or premises disinfected:-

(a) Infectious disease other than tuberculosis	Nil
(b) Tuberculosis	Nil
Number of premises subject to disinfestation	Nil

Rodent Control

Number of rodent operatives employed (Rodent control done by specialised firm)	None
Number of premises treated:-	
(a) Dwelling-houses	90
(b) Other premises	2

The service covers domestic, business and agricultural premises.

There are no serious reservoirs of rats in the district.

Atmospheric Pollution

Number of visits	13
Number of nuisances found	Nil
Number of smokeless zones	Nil

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

Number of complaints	2
Number of nuisances found	Nil

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
i. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by local authorities	7	Nil	Nil	Nil
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	62	Nil	Nil	Nil
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers)	13	Nil	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which defects were found

Nil

Part VIII of the Act

Outworkers

No outworkers were reported in the Urban District during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

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Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
i. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 are enforced by local authorities	7	Nil	Nil	Nil
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	62	Nil	Nil	Nil
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers)	13	Nil	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which defects were found

Nil

Part VIII of the Act

Outworkers

No outworkers were reported in the Urban District during the year.